



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUN 10 2016

Ms. Paula Cobb
Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard MS 15
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Ms. Cobb,

I am writing you to convey the positive observations noted during the recent EPA State Review Framework (SRF) Round 3 file review of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) RCRA program during May 9-12, 2016. This file review was conducted to evaluate DEP progress on the RCRA recommendations in the final SRF Round 2 report, dated May 6, 2013, and my follow-up letter, dated November 7, 2014, emphasizing EPA's concerns regarding DEP's enforcement approach in response to RCRA significant violators (SNCs).

The preliminary results of the file review indicate that DEP has dedicated significant resources to assure that the state's RCRA compliance and enforcement activities follow the guidelines of EPA's Hazardous Waste Enforcement Response Policy. In the vast majority of the 35 files reviewed, DEP had correctly identified RCRA SNC facilities, took timely and appropriate enforcement responses for the violations, and ensured that the facilities returned to compliance. As evidenced during discussions with DEP management and staff during the review, the state has worked diligently to improve consistency across the DEP District Offices in the RCRA enforcement program implementation.

While the SRF file review findings are preliminary with a final SRF report expected in 2017, I wanted to reach out now to commend you and staff for the commitment to consistency and integrity to the RCRA Hazardous Waste program. I look forward to continuing to work with you collaboratively to provide equal environmental benefits to the public and a level playing field for regulated entities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Scott Gordon", is positioned above the typed name.

J. Scott Gordon
Director
Office of Enforcement Coordination

Cc: Mike Halpern, Florida DEP
Joseph Ullo, Florida DEP



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MAY 30 2017

Mr. Ryan D. Matthews
Interim Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Matthews:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 would like to thank you and your staff for participating in the Round 3 State Review Framework (SRF) evaluation of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) compliance and enforcement program. Region 4 is very appreciative of the cooperation and assistance provided by FDEP during the SRF evaluation, and the straightforward communication and collaboration displayed by your staff in working with us throughout the review process.

Please find enclosed the final Round 3 SRF report summarizing the evaluation of FDEP's Clean Air Act (CAA) Stationary Source program, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C program and the Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) program for federal fiscal year 2015. While the report identifies recommendations for improvement to strengthen performance in specific areas, it also recognizes that FDEP implements effective compliance and enforcement activities in many of the elements evaluated in the SRF.

Please pass along our thanks to everyone involved for their cooperation in the development of this report. We look forward to continuing the strong partnership that we share with FDEP in our joint efforts to improve the environment for all of our citizens. If you have any question or concerns regarding the enclosed report, please feel free to contact me at (404) 562-9741 or Kelly Sisario at (404) 562-9054.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Scott Gordon", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Scott Gordon

Director

Office of Enforcement Coordination

cc: Mr. John Pruitt
Mr. Mike Halpin